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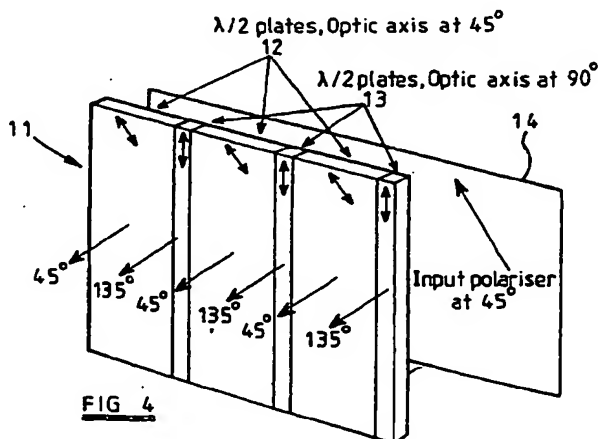
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(54) Passive polarisation modulating optical element and method of making such an element

(57) A passive polarisation modulating optical element comprises a layer 11 of birefringent material. The layer 11 has substantially fixed birefringence and comprises retarder regions 12 and 13 forming a regular pattern, for instance to act as a parallax barrier for a 3D display. The retarders 12 and 13 have optic axes aligned in different directions from each other. The element may

be associated with a polariser 14, for instance an output polariser of a liquid crystal device, with the polarising direction of the polariser 14 being parallel to the optic axis of the retarders 12. Thus, the retarders 12 have no effect on light passing through the element 11 whereas the retarders 13 act as half waveplates and rotate the polarisation vector of light passing therethrough, for instance by 90°.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 5123

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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D,P, A			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 November 1998	Examiner THEOPISTOU, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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Application Number
EP 98 30 5123

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Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		20 November 1998	THEOPISTOU, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>-----</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p>			

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